



Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) Feedback Loop

June 6, 2023

Recommendations, Input and Decisions Made, Status Updates

Follow Up Items from April 11 meeting

2024 Legislative Session Lookahead & Government Affairs Budget Update

We are pleased to be able to tell you [Senate Bill 5316](#) passed the legislature and is on the Governor's desk for signature. The good news – child care providers will **not** have to resume paying background check fees.

Unfortunately, we regret to have to report that the legislature removed the section regarding licensing fees, effectively reinstating these fees permanently. This means all licensed child care providers who have fees due after July 1, 2023 will need to begin paying their annual child care licensing fees. As you may recall, fees were temporarily lifted in a Governor-issued COVID-related emergency order to help alleviate costs for child care in an effort to keep licensed child care open during the pandemic.

We know that this will not be welcome news for many, as providers are still struggling with costs associated with staffing and other pandemic impacts. Our goal is to implement this return to licensing fees as efficiently and seamlessly as possible. An email will be sent shortly to all licensed providers with more details about this transition.

Until then, please take a moment to celebrate the portion of this bill that will simplify and improve the hiring process for many providers across Washington by removing background check fees. [You can find an updated version of the slide deck that was shared with you during the April ELAC meeting here.](#) – it has more details about what else passed the legislature for Early Learning this year. Thank you for your partnership.

TLS Tracker

- When it says “follows policy and procedure dictated by Revised Code of Washington (RCW) or Washington Administrative Code (WAC)” in response it might be nice to have the RCW and WAC so that if someone is interested they could look it up.
 - Thank you for this helpful feedback! Links to relevant WACs and RCWs have been added to the tracker.

Early Learning Needs Assessment

- Who makes up the “we” in the final analysis recommendation decisions?
 - The preschool development grant is a compilation of many subject matter experts including lived experts, childcare providers, advisory groups, and steering committees. We will come back in June with more details about all the groups supporting these projects

OIAA FSKA Evaluation and Data Update

- Is there a way to filter the data in the dashboard?
 - The dashboard will have a number of check-box options that can be checked or un-checked to ‘filter’ the data displayed.
 - In the future, we expect to have a separate ECEAP/Head Start take up dashboard, so there will not be a need to filter between WCCC only and WCCC + ECEAP rates.
 - In the meantime, the ECEAP program publishes estimates of need and supply for ECEAP/Head Start in their [ECEAP and Head Start Saturation Study](#).
- I believe we should exclude, it to show a realistic picture of Working Connections Child Care (WCCC).



- We agree. Children in households that meet the income and work requirements for subsidy and who are known or estimated to be participating in ECEAP/Head Start are excluded from the Subsidy Take Up dashboard.
- This is why we expect to work on producing a separate ECEAP/HS take up dashboard.

Recruitment Announcement: ELAC Executive Committee

We are currently accepting nominations for co-chairs! Below we have included the Roles and Responsibilities, including time commitments, for the co-chair position. Please take a moment to review and reach out if you have any questions or would like to apply

Co-Chair Roles and Responsibilities

- Serve as members of the Executive Committee.
- Lead and facilitate meetings in a way that ensures: that all Members and the public have opportunities to participate; that meeting actions and decisions are clear; and that ELAC provides meaningful, clear advice and recommendations to DCYF.
- Steward the consistent collaboration and alignment with DCYF to ensure all expectations and directives are being met.
- Participate in regular planning meetings with DCYF to plan meetings and track work plan progress (approximate time commitment is 2-3 one-hour meetings per month).
- Foster and maintain forthright, positive relationships with DCYF and with ELAC Members and Regional Advisors.
- Represent ELAC in communications with DCYF.

If you are interested in being a co-chair for the ELAC, please email us at dcyf.communityengagement@dcyf.wa.gov and share the following:

- *Why are you interested in being a co-chair for the ELAC?*
- *What do you hope to contribute to the Executive Committee?*